

THE MODERN LIBRARIAN

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE



Editor

R. R. KUMRIA

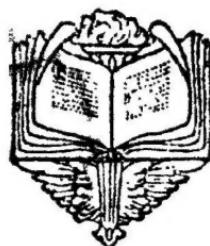
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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PUNJAB LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

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OCTOBER 1935

No. 1

EDITORIAL

(By S. S. SAITH)

The Modern Librarian is able to announce certain changes in its form beginning from this number. The size has been reduced so as to bring it into harmony with the idea of an easily handled periodical; the quality of paper used is finer and the type is larger and more easily readable than before; finally the number of the pages has been increased. We hope that the Paper will become thereby a better instrument of the noble cause of "Education through Libraries" to which it is dedicated.

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Rural Libraries in India.

It is not for nothing that we have devoted the First number of the *Modern Librarian* launched in its present form to the subject of Rural Libraries. It is because we realise the place of Libraries in the Renaissance of India, and it is because we realise that, for good or evil, Providence has decreed that the heart of India shall be in its villages, that we have given the place of honour to Rural Libraries in India. The technique of Urban Libraries, though not found in India in the pitch of perfection to which some of the Western Libraries have brought it, has yet, we believe, found a firm foothold here. At least, it is not any more in its swaddling clothes. But the technique of rural libraries,

wherein alone India can contribute its individual genius to libraries, has not yet been considered worthy of the attention and nourishment which is its due. Whereas in some parts of the country, notably Madras and Baroda the Rural Library movement has passed its pre-natal stage, be it said to our deep sorrow and deeper shame that in our own Land of the Five Rivers, it is existing not even in its embryonic form.

It is the duty of every civilized State, to bring equality of opportunity to the door of its humblest citizen, and what meaning can equality of opportunity have, in the modern complex society, for a man for whom even the three R's are Orphean Mysteries.

An efficient network of rural libraries throughout the country is absolutely essential. Without this network the materialization, the maintenance and the furtherance of a cultural atmosphere, without which a society would be smothered to death, is, we believe, a Sisyphean task. Without the stimulant of libraries, the cultural structure built up by schools and other educational institutions will atrophy and become a feckless appurtenance of a citizen.

We have thrown the whole onus of launching the Rural Library Movement on the State and we have done it with full understanding. Private enterprise is shy in this country; and even if it were forthcoming it cannot be expected to bring to bear on its work, the bold conception of the movement we envisage, and which alone can solve our needs and atone for our neglects.

* * *

Diamond Jubilee of Gaekwad of Baroda and Silver

Jubilee of Baroda Central Library.

It is with great pleasure that we learnt of the preparations which are being made in Baroda to celebrate the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 61)

RURAL LIBRARIES

BY

S. R. Ranganathan, M.A., L.T., F.L.A.,

*Secretary, Madras Library Association and
University Librarian, Madras.*

It is a truism to say that India is primarily rural. Whereas less than 40 per cent of the population live in urban areas and follow rural vocation in several western countries, as many as 89 per cent do so in India. Hence, practically in every phase of human activity one should expect to find fundamental difference between India and the urbanised countries. In particular, the library problem of India has to be essentially a rural library problem. The technique of running urban and metropolitan libraries has been long ago perfected in the west. The library profession in India is in danger of transplanting the ready made urban library methods of the West into the Indian soil and fondly believing that much progress had been achieved. But there can be no greater delusion than that.

PECULIARITIES IN INDIA.

Even coming to the avowd rural library methods that are being developed of late in western countries, we are not in a position to adopt them bodily in our country. The sway of compulsory Education Act for over half a century in western countries has made the whole of the rural population literate. But even according to the 1931 census, the percentage of literates in India has not risen above 8. This is a factor which complicates Indian rural library problem. It would be confessing the bankruptcy of the Indian library profession if it professes that its field of work lies only among the literates and ignores the bulk of our people on the ground of their illiteracy. Apart from such an attitude being a disgrace to the library profession, it would prove fatal to our national

interest. Already the gulf that exists between the literate few and the illiterate many is obstructing every progress in the land. This gulf was rendered harmfully wide, partly by the pick of the land adopting a foreign tongue for its thought as well as expression and partly by the traditional methods of making the illiterate educated falling into disuse. If the rural library work will confine itself to the sphere of the literate and neglect the illiterate, this gulf will get even wider. Further, every attempt on the part of the literate few to make India a better India will be frustrated by the bulk of India being unable to resonate with them.

A TRANSITORY MEASURE.

Hence, as a transitory measure for one generation, the main objective of the rural library workers in India should be that of reading to the illiterates and liquidating the appalling illiteracy. Hence, while the chief work of the rural library organiser in the literate west is that of persuading the rural people to take the books of the library home and read them for themselves, the business of the rural library organiser in India will have to be that instituting the readership system, by which all the illiterates—men and women, young and old, the high and the low—will be assembled together in the village school or in front of the village temple or in front of the village headman and books on all variety of topics--from the Puranic stories so dear to the heart of the villager to the latest books on agricultural marketing and economic reconstruction—will have to be read out by the village teacher. Since, the ears are not, in general, as effective a receptive organ as the eyes, the chief rural library organiser of the province will have to improvise special picture books for the use of the illiterates. Such picture books may have to be specially produced or may have to be made up by piecing together in an intelligible way cuttings from

news papers and magazines. The School teacher will also have to read out to the illiterate assembly from the news-papers of the day and circulate among them special picture newspapers produced by the headquarters, for the use of the illiterate.

Similar experience in other countries, particularly Russia, leads us to believe that special work of this kind will create in the illiterate adults an innate urge to become independent of the readership system and to acquire the capacity to read for oneself. When such an urge manifests itself, it will be the task of the rural library organiser to turn the urge to good account by setting up the necessary local organisation to teach the Three R's to those who are actuated by the urge. It has been found from experience in Russia that under such circumstances the illiterate adults can be rendered literate and enabled to read children's books in about a year and adult books in about a couple of years.

IMMEDIATE FUNCTIONS.

Thus, the immediate rural library problem of India will fall into three divisions.

1. The production of special picture books and picture newspapers on all conceivable topics of current thought in sufficiently large editions to reach every village in the land.

(2) Reading from ordinary books and newspapers as a means of stimulating interest and for initiating in the illiterates an intelligent interest in the picture books and Picture newspapers, and vice versa; and

(3) Establishing local organisations for the liquidation of illiteracy when the interest in the printed word is roused to the maximum in the illiterate villagers.

Of these three functions, it is obvious that the only body that can discharge the first one effectively is the State, i. e. the respective provincial governments.

LOCAL EFFORT

The second function will have to depend largely upon local effort, but in the earlier years it must be the duty of the District Boards to give some kind of monetary inducement to the village teacher to make him take up the work. What is more, the District Board must show its keen interest in the scheme in every possible way so that the people of the villages attach real value to the scheme. To discharge these duties effectively and to see that the programme is set up and worked along proper lines each District Board will have to appoint a full timed rural library organiser. Much will ultimately depend on the rural library organiser. Hence, the choice of the rural organiser should not be influenced by political and ultra-academic consideration. The professional equipment, the urge for social service and the personality of the candidate should be the only deciding factors in the appointment. Further, if his work is to be effective and his propaganda is to be catching, the rural library organiser should be not only kept far above want but also given the status and hence, the salary equal to those of the other district officials, such as the District Board Engineer and the District Board Commissioner.

The third function will be easily discharged if the first two functions are properly fulfilled. The third function cannot be and should not be forced on the villagers. It must be taken up only when there is a spontaneous demand for the same. When the spontaneous demand arises, the machinery necessary for discharging it will be set up voluntarily by each village. The business of the District Board will be merely to coordinate the work of such local machinery and if at all possible, to set up some models for the way in which such lay local machinery may pursue their task without too much of beating about the bush.

FUNCTION THE GOVERNMENT.

When the time comes for the fulfilment of the third

function, another duty will devolve itself on the provincial government. That will be to produce in large quantities and in every conceivable subject of live interest to the villagers, books in easy style in each of the current Indian languages. It is no use for the government to say that this supply of books must be left to the economic law of supply and demand and must be left in the hand of private enterprise. That policy is one that is appropriate to normal condition. Rural library service in India is not in a normal condition. All the success that might be achieved in the discharge of the first three functions will go to waste, if the State does not step in and supply the necessary books at least for one generation. If that is done for a generation, rural library service in India would have been put on a normal footing and then the State can withdraw itself from all such abnormal duties and we may expect the rural library service of India to develop along normal lines.

MANNARGUDI EXPERIMENT

At present thanks to the private effort of a single individual, Rao Saheb S. V. Kanagasabai Pillai, a retired engineer of the service of the Government of Madras, the second and the third functions are being discharged against many odds in the experimental rural library centre established by him at Mannargudi. A detailed account of the work of this centre is given in the 5th Annual Report of the Madras Library Association. By about third year of the experiment, the second function has been discharged so satisfactorily that the demand for the fulfilment of the third function arose spontaneously in most of the villages of the area.

But every time Rao Saheb Kanagasabai Pillai comes to Madras, his complaint is lack of books in Tamil. He finds that the thirst for knowledge is insatiable among the villagers. But the book market in the Tamil country offers

only the ordinary text-books for the elementary schools and for the high school classes. It is absolutely indifferent to the production of books on current thought. Hence, the laudable work of Rao Saheb Kanagasabai Pillai is handicapped enormously. It is not possible for a single individual to produce such books or to be able to influence the publishing world to take up the publication of such books.

HANDICAP AT MANNARGUDI CENTRE.

It is only the State that can command the necessary means and the necessary influence to fill up this vital gap in rural library service. It was with a view to providing the necessary legal sanction for the discharge of this duty by the State that certain clauses were introduced in the Public Libraries Bill sponsored by the Madras Library Association, *Viz.*, the clauses relating to the provincial Library Committee and the clauses relating to the establishment of Regional committees to tackle library problems which could be solved economically only on a co-operative basis.

It is not impossible that patriotic centres like that at Mannargudi may be thrown into inaction for want of books in the next few years. Hence, it is one of the imperative duties which the State owes to its citizens at the present time in our country that plenty of well-written, well-produced and well-illustrated books should be produced continuously for some years for the rural library service to take root in our country and usher in the era of enlightened activity and contentment among the rural population.

LESSONS FROM THE MANNARGUDI EXPERIMENT.

While the lesson of the Mannargudi experiment to the provincial governments is even along the taking up of publishing work as a temporary measure, the lesson that shows to the District Boards is even more amusing. The experience of Mannargudi shows that the literates as well

as the illiterates in the rural areas are ready to benefit themselves by a rural library service. It is true that a voluntary and aggressive demand does not exist. But once the service is set up, it is well appreciated and patronised.

Under the circumstances, what should be the attitude of our local bodies? It should fight against the great danger by learning from the Mannargudi experiment. Unlike the engineering, water supply, conservancy and similar activities, the library is a non-revenue-producing concern. Hence, it is not likely to get the necessary attention, but the correct attitude should be to realise that the revenue from the library consists of an improved knowledge among the community, the number of people made happier by the recreative reading provided and a respectable number of citizens more fully equipped to carry out their vocations in life and thus become more valuable assets to the district and through the districts to the country as a whole.

The experiment at Mannargudi demonstrates this ultimate return from rural library service. It is, to my mind, one of the most important points which require to be instilled into public opinion and in particular into local bodies. When this is universally accepted, false economy will give place to true economy and every local body will become an enthusiastic library authority.

It is gratifying to find that quite a number of local bodies voted in favour of the Public Libraries Bill promoted by the Madras Library Association. It is hoped that if the bill becomes an Act, an equal enthusiasm and eagerness will be evinced by the local bodies in adopting the Act.

Rural Library Service Centers in Madras Presidency *

(a) Mannargudi Koumaragurukulam Travelling Library Service.

(By S. N. KANAGASBAI PILLAI)

The Adult Education centre, known as Koumaragurukulam, at Mannargudi, Tanjore District, is working, as already known to the public from October, 1931, and its main feature is travelling library service by which books are carried to the door of the villager and circulated to groups of about 16 individuals each without any charge to the readers. It also holds summer schools for adults, gives talks and magic lantern shows for rural uplift and works for temperance service.

TRAVELLING LIBRARY SERVICE.

The number of such groups organised in a radius of about 12 miles around the headquarters and put into action was 12 in 1931, 100 in 1932, 137 in 1933 and 145 in 1934. There are three paid workers in the staff excluding the President and the Secretary who are honorary workers. Two of the paid workers tour in the villages systematically and two honorary workers pay visits to the villages occasionally. Since last October, a village teacher has joined the staff as an honorary worker and has taken up 10 villages round about him and is rendering efficient and systematic work. As our stock of Tamil books useful in the villages is only 4,055 and as our workers cannot cover usefully more branches, we are taking special care not to increase the number. Of the total of 145 village units, 117 are working efficiently, the standard of efficiency being the reading of at least one book by each reader in the unit per visit.

*Extracts from Madras Library Association Seventh Annual Report 1934-35.

The service is rendered to all creeds and castes without any distinction. There were in all at the end of September last 2,842 members of whom 75 were ladies.

With the growth of the rural branches and members, the number of visits paid rose from year to year thus :— 20 in 1931, 319 in 1932, 370 in 1933, 708 in 1934. Similary, also the issue of books to the groups as such ; the figures are 310 in 1931, 4,777 in 1932, 6,468 in 1933, 9,032 in 1934.

Our Tamil books in circulation totalling 4,055, cover all possible varieties of subjects. In addition there are 992 English books and 583 reference books. These are issued only on requisition with discretion. We have stories and novels only to an extent of 544 and there is a great demand for them, more than we can meet. Not only our finance is poor but also the number of Tamil novels which are not vicious is still poorer.

The accounting of individual reading of books by members within the group had been a problem and the members and the group leaders fail to note them in the slips furnished. Since April special care is taken in this respect and a register is maintained for each branch, noting the reading of books by each member.

The total number of books circulated within the group for all the different visits is 4,147 and the total account of reading by different members individually comes to 9,157 for the period April—September 1934—6 months. This works out in average that each book circulated is read by $2\frac{1}{3}$ members. Similar account for the period October—December, 1934 are 2,655 books circulated and 6,285 books read individually. This works out to an average of $3\frac{3}{4}$ readers for each book circulated. The increase in the number of books read and the average per book during the latter period is due to various causes, viz., raining season, which affords greater leisure and

staying indoors of the agricultural population, a more organised and concentrated tour of the workers and also to an additional worker who joined the staff in October. This effort of ours is a first experiment at rural library service on a large scales and it shows great possibilities for growth and development. What we need are (1) a large stock of books for circulation and (2) a few more workers to tour in the villages which can be obtained only with the financial support of the Government and of those who can afford, which we hope will be forthcoming.

REMOVAL OF ADULT ILLITERACY.

Since the first of January, 1935, the Secretary and the President are touring in the villages to work, with help of the library groups in the villages for the removal of illiteracy of the adults over 14 years of age. The scheme is that a literate member is to teach some 10 illiterates near about him in leisure hours with a special text and copy books prepared by us for teaching. These books are to be purchased by the readers for as. 4 only out of which as. 2 goes to the teacher. It is expected in the course of 3 months the reader will learn to read and write and make a small list of samans for bazar purchase. No higher course is contemplated. Already preliminary arrangements are made in 10 villages to teach about 600 illiterates gathered in 42 groups.

(b) LIBRARY SERVICE—SAIDAPET

(By RAO SAHEB P. K. A. AIYAR)

ORIGIN OF THE LIBRARY

The Adult School has been working for nearly 8 years now. Study of its admission register revealed the fact that year after year a large number seeking admission into it had read up to and inclusive of classes 3 and 4 but had grown rusty if not lapsed into illiteracy. Intimate personal contact with such also indicated that if only books had been

made available to them at the very doors of their homes at practically no expense they would have kept contact with books, and improved in reading ability and knowledge. These two observations led us to arrange for the distribution of books in a library cart.

WORKING OF THE SYSTEM

A light cart containing the library books is arranged to go round the streets of Saidapet during 5 days in the week. Two or three streets are served by it each day. It stops at the door of members when issue and return of books are effected. A day labourer joining as a member of the library is charged a subscription of one anna per month. Others are charged two annas per month.

DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED

For lack of funds it has not been possible to provide sufficient duplicate copies of books largely in demand. The books are often lent by a member to his friends and in consequence the return of the books by him is delayed beyond the normal period. The get up of many of the books is poor and they get spoiled with a few months' use. Subscriptions are not often regularly paid. In the absence of a full time worker for the cart only the portion of Saidapet from which pupils of the Adult School are drawn is being catered.

RESULTS

Besides several adult men, some women and children have also joined the library as members. There is constant and regular demand for books from at least one hundred readers. There are in addition 35 members belonging to more literate classes of the public. 25 students of the adult school are also members of the library. The type of books most in demand are novels, puranic stories, old time tales, and short stories. Sometimes one book is enjoyed simultaneously by several people, one reading and the others listening. The conclusion that we make from our

experiment is that books are gladly welcomed and read by very many of the poor if only they are made easily accessible to them both physically and financially and that the section is rendering good service to a large number of people to live fuller and more joyous lives.

(c) RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE— THOLASAMPATTI

BY THE PRESIDENT AND LIBRARY,
THOLASAMPATTI CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

Our library is not a stationary one and it is being used mainly by 34 villages wherein we have our co-operative societies affiliated to our Union. We have selected 4 different centres to enable easy circulation and proper success to all those interested in reading books. The staff of our Union have been directed to watch the maintenance of these branches and we are glad to say that these books have been so far read by more than about 2,000 persons. We interchange the books once in a quarter and when these books complete one round, fresh books are introduced and the old set is circulated in a new centre.

The main library is stationed here, wherein we have the Union Office. The main resources of our income are donations from the Common Good Fund of the District Central Bank and affiliated societies.

We will be much obliged to those charitable minded philanthropists to offer their gifts to us which, we are sure, would surely fulfil their wish since it is the deserving rural population that would derive the benefits. This need not bestir the urban inhabitants since their's is the monopoly, for such privileges and the rural population, are only at their mercy for transmitting their knowledge to us through their institutions.

(d) LIBRARY ACTIVITIES in ANANTAPUR and CUDDAPPAH DISTRICTS

(By T. V. APPARSUNARAM)

AIM AND SCOPE

When I assumed charge, Anantapur and Cuddappah district had no library movement worthy of the name. A very large percentage of people including most, if not all, of the elementary school teachers, were separated from the best currents of Indian thought and life. Educationally these were neglected and allowed to live a life of isolation and yet to an elementary school teacher is entrusted the very responsible work of the education of the young. To break up this isolation, to end this educational neglect, to maintain the literacy of adults and to create in children a love for books and for reading. I have worked out a plan of library service on modern lines. The scheme devised also contains provision for hospital service.

To start with I have limited the scope at present to a few municipal areas and teachers' association centres where the right type of workers are available. As experience is gathered in actual working, the movement will be extended gradually to other places and no town or teachers' association centre in the two districts will be left without the benefit of a library service.

PLAN OF WORK

The service consists of two departments, circulating library and hospital library. Seven municipal areas and teachers' association centres have new circulating libraries. No library has less than 100 books and in the matter of selection very great care has been devoted. They are under the care of the Deputy Inspectors and Supervisors of Municipal Schools who are guided both by my personal talks and my circulars issued from time to time laying down rules and regulations for the issue of books, correct maintenance of proper registers and for ensuring the

movement of library boxes from one centre to another without undue delay. Literate adult, all elementary school teachers and children are induced to take out and read as many books as they are capable of finishing within the time limit. Teachers and children are required to prepare brief notes of what they have read. Theachers' notes are read in their Association meetings and children's notes are carefully looked into by their teachers. Deputy Inspectors and Supervisors send in their periodical reports and each centre created receives my special attention. No pains are spared to get additional books and the Commissioner, Cuddappah Municipality, has ordered his municipal school headmasters to place suitable sets of books of their schools at the disposal of the service in Cuddappah Municipal area.

Anantapur and Cuddappah towns have both the circulating and hospital libraries. Hospital service is eounducted by the headmasters of the two high schools who have made an interesting collection of books. Groups of scouts with their scout-masters attend Government Hospitals every evening and spend an hour there with the patients distributing story books and magazines to the literate in-patients. It may be interesting to note that three girl pupils are devoting themselves to this kind of work in the Government Hospital at Cuddappah. Music is a valuable adjunct to the social work in the hospital. The sick are entertained with music and this is immensely liked by them. The sick look forward to the arrival of this selfless band of youngsters with great eagerness. These scouts maintain individual diaries and I call for these diaries to keep myself in close touch with the progress made. Writing letters home for the sick forms an interesting feature of the social service work in the hospital.

CONCLUSION.

Amidst the clamour of politicial parties, the voice of

the educationalists is little heard. Constitutional advance providing for democratisation of the franchise can be appreciated only by a literate people with a civic consciousness.

My work in the matter of spreading the library movement is very hard. But this is just an example to show what a District Educational Officer apart from the vast amount of routine work in which he is engaged, can do.

An important problem in respect of the library movement is the preparation of a list of books suitable for adult and children's reading—not book which we think they ought to know but books which have been found by experiment and investigation to attract children. The teachers would be doing a useful piece of work if they analyse the types of books that are found to attract adults and children.

Rural Library System in Baroda.*

(By A. M. Amin.)

We have been working out the scheme of rural libraries in the Baroda State for the last 25 years. I will leave aside the question of the Central Library, which is being maintained by the Government and which is a free library for the city of Baroda. We have three kinds of organizations and the initiative is with the people in each case.

PRINCIPLES UNDERLINGING GRANTS.

The Baroda Government has set principles on which they give grants. There are three classes of areas for the purposes of libraries. One is the district towns where the rule is that a maximum grant of Rs. 700

*Substance of a speech delivered at the Secand All-India Library Conference held in Lucknow.

may be given provided the people raise a similar amount. And the other condition is that local boards have to contribute their share of Rs. 700. So, provided the people come forward to raise Rs. 700 in principal towns of district they can not expect Rs. 700 from the Government and Rs. 700 from the local boards. If they raise less they will get less. Similar is the case with other towns. In their case maximum Government grant is Rs. 300. And the same applies in the case of village, but in their case the maximum Government grant is Rs. 100, both from the Government and also from the local boards.

PROBLEM OF VILLAGES.

In small villages the question of a separate librarian and good many other difficulties do arise. In the beginning we left things in charge of school masters or Government servants. The libraries are Government libraries, so no separate building is required for smaller libraries. The school master becomes the librarian without any additional remuneration. It is considered a question of social service and we experience no difficulty with regard to that. We have got 1000 libraries in different parts of Baroda State. The total number of villages is 3000 and the total number of villages that have schools is 1500 and we have 1200 villages which have either got libraries or reading rooms. We are going to finish the programme in the next three or four years and we shall see that each and every village that has a school of its own has also a library.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

Again we have travelling libraries too. They are run purely by the Government. A simple post card from a village resident to the Baroda Central Library gets him a travelling library at Government expense. Freight charges are paid by the Government both ways. If there be a reader in the most distant part of the Baroda State

and if he is anxious to get books, he has simply to write to the Baroda Central Library and we manage to send him books at Government expense. So our travelling libraries have been moving from Baroda to other places and again coming back to Baroda.

We have Taluka associations, district associations and the State Library Association too, all working in co-operation with each other, getting grants-in-aid from Government and local Boards. They co-operate with the Government in running the libraries and now there is a fair competition amongst these Taluka associations. Each Taluka is anxious to see that the villages may have the full number of libraries as early as possible.

The principle for giving grants for buildings is the same. If the people raise Rs. 1000 Government gives Rs. 1000 and local boards Rs. 1000.

LADIES AND CHILDREN LIBRARIES.

Then we have got libraries specially meant for ladies. People collected Rs. 7000, Government gave Rs. 7000 and local boards Rs. 7000. There is a library building for ladies. That is a central place for all the activities of the ladies. University classes are conducted there and girls are sent for Matriculation Examination too. We have industrial classes there for ladies as well.

We have children's libraries also. They are being run independently. At times we purchase 25 copies of one book so that if two boys or more want to read the same book none should be disappointed.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND LIBRARIES.

Everything we have been talking about here in this conference we have realised in our own place. Government is very liberal. It is a Government concern and there is full scope for private people to come in. We allow the names to be attached to libraries. If a person

contributes Rs. 1000 and wishes his name to be associated with the library, it is called after his name. Not one individual from the Government or the Local Board is on the managing committee. It consists of contributors who manage their own affairs. However there is a Government Library Department which sees only whether the people have been spending the money properly or not. They sanction the budget, they sanction the books and they sanction the periodicals for village libraries, but no undue restriction is placed upon them. If they find that a library purchases books simply for the use of ladies and nothing for children or for the agriculturist then the Library Department gives them proper guidance.

We have got more than 100 library buildings in villages. The demand is so great that the Government is not in a position to cope with it. If the Government can sanction money more buildings can be erected every year. Flow of charity has now come to libraries.

HOW PROMOTERS RAISE FUNDS.

Marriage tax is raised in each and every village. Whenever there is a marriage, the promoters of the library go and ask for contributions. Thus they collect their own money. We have got co-operative societies and one of the rules prescribed is that 20 per cent. of the income would go to libraries. That counts towards the contribution from the people. Again there is a feeling of competition between different Talukas. The leaders of a Taluka see that the poor villagers may not starve for want of libraries. They contribute from their own pockets and thus they see that smallest village even though it may be very poor, gets the grant from the Government.

We have the Central Library at Baroda. We have district libraries at the four district headquarters, and we have about 50 town libraries. So that our libraries may

not have to close down for lack of funds in case the Government withdraws its grant, the people have been careful enough to provide for this contingency in as much as they have made a rule that before they ask Government for a grant of Rs. 700, they (in addition to having Rs. 700 at their disposal for running the library) keep as reserve, an amount of Rs. 700.

Even a small boy in Baroda State knows something of the library. A library day is celebrated on Basantpanchmi. On that day people raise money and try to popularise libraries.

CO-OPERATIVE LIBRARY STORES.

We have a system of co-operative library stores in Baroda. Because it is a co-operative body a little margin of profit is left to them and the whole goes to the libraries. Books are ordered by the co-operative stores from America and other countries. So it is very easy for us to run these libraries, because there is perfect co-operation of the Government departments, of the Government officials, the Library Department and of the social workers of the State. Government spends Rs. 20 lakhs every year on compulsory education and if the people who are being taught to read and write are not supplied with literature to read, it means that Rs. 20 lakhs is going to be wasted. Thus the Library Department and the Education Department are working in full co-operation with one another.

CINEMA SECTION.

There was some years back a cinema section attached to the library. We had one operator and three peons and it used to move from place to place. It did work well and it is still there, but it has been transferred from the Library Department to the Sanitary Department.

In addition, State Library Association, to which the libraries contribute a certain share besides the Govern-

ment and the local boards which contribute Rs. 3000 every year, maintains a cinema of its own. If the people of Taluka want to have the cinema films exhibited in their villages they might contribute a little and the library Association will send their own cinema men who will have a programme for about a month. Thus with the full co-operation of people and the different Governmental Departments, we are able to maintain the different activities which are so much appreciated by the people.

Rural Library Movement in Andhra Desa.*

BY

**J. Venkata Ramanaya, Secretary Andhra Desa
Library Association.**

"There are 16 districts in Andhra Desa. Our Association was started in the year 1914, but the library movement can be traced 40 years back. Before that, even in towns there was no habit of reading books and journals. In those days some noble souls who had no knowledge of English had started libraries and some of these are still working in the Andhra Desa. In 1914 the Andhra Desa Library Association was started to popularise the Libraries and concentrate the various forces working in the various districts. There are 600 libraries in the Andhra Desa, 8 taluka library associations, 6 district library associations and 7 town library associations.

All are affiliated to the Provincial Library Association.

*Substance of a speech delivered at the 2nd All-India Library Conference held in Lucknow.

STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE.

Most of the libraries are village libraries and the Government are giving grants only for about the last ten years. Before that time if the local boards gave grants to the libraries, Government used to vote. We had to fight with the Government for six years. We invited the then-Executive Member of the Government to lay the foundation of a library and waited in deputation on him. Then he declared that the municipal council and local boards may utilise a portion of their income for the maintenance of libraries and helping them. Since then Government has begun sanctioning grants made by the local boards. Afterwards one of our popular leaders introduced a Bill in the Legislative Council to grant aid to the libraries Government funds. The Bill was defeated twice but after continuous efforts for two years it was accepted by the Government and Rs. 10,000 were allotted for that purpose. Afterwards that sum had been increased to Rs. 20,000. The mode of distributing this amount is that a library has to spend an equal amount of the grant made by the Government, and the grant is distributed by the Director of Public Instruction through his agents, the Deputy Inspector of Schools. And then the panchayat also has got a similar amount for grants—another Rs. 20,000. But the panchayat received grants only for a few years. They were discontinued by the Government on account of the financial stringency.

SPECIAL FUNCTION OF VILLAGE LIBRARIANS.

In rural areas we have honorary workers in our parts and village school masters are librarians. The system of honorary librarians has failed. Generally the school master has no enthusiasm after a hard day's work in the school. Our libraries are exclusively run by honorary librarians, very few are paid librarians. We have at present 600 libraries.

The main problem which we have to face is the illiteracy prevailing in the villages. More than 90 per cent. of the population is illiterate. If we can serve only 10 per cent of the population, what is the use of our village libraries ? So the main thing that a village requires is not only books but at least one honorary person who will devote his entire time to reading out those books and newspapers every day to villagers. In India if we only devote our attention to the distribution of books, in that way only 90 per cent of the population will be served. So the main thing is to read books to illiterates. That is the most essential point of our programme.

Generally whenever we go out for propaganda, we take with us a magic lantern, a gramophone and *bhajan* party. We first go round the village with the *bhajan* party and advertise that the party have come to the village. Some lectures are delivered and this is followed by magic lantern show. We have been quite successful with magic lantern experiment.

Library Movement in Bihar

with Special Reference to Rural Library Service

BY

RAJ MATHURA PRASAD,

Honorary General Secretary, The Bihar Hitaishi Library, Patna City.

ANCIENT LIBRARIES.

Library organisation is not altogether foreign to our country nor to our province. In ancient India, before the invention of Script, knowledge was imparted through word of mouth by Brahmarishies and Rajrishies who were rather the moving libraries of the then India containing within themselves the "Vedas". After the script was invented manuscripts were prepared with great care and were deposited in the Ashrams, Gurukuls and Maths and they served the purpose of libraries. Our province and especially the city of Patna, the Patliputra of the hoary old days is proud of having a very big library in Budhist monastry in the Budhistic age of which a mention has been made by the Chinese pilgrim Fahian. Later on every Budhist Vihara came to be a store house of books dealing with all sorts of culture. Next we come to Gupta period when Nalanda, the magnificent seat of learning was founded which attracted scholars from all parts of the world. History bears testimony to the fact that at Nalanda books were kept in a nine storied temple called Trathnudadin (the ocean of gems). Nalanda was destroyed about the 8th century A. D. After that the Paul king of Bihar founded two libraries at Odenttapur and Vikramasila. These two libraries contained books of Budhist and Brahaminical culture and religion. These two institutions were destroyed by the soldiers of Bakhtiar Khilji in the 13th century A. D. Besides the libraries mentioned above there were libraries in temples, monasteries, Ashrams and Gurukuls. There appear to have been collections of books even with the Rajas and nobilities of

the past. Moreover the Pandits and the Katha Bachaks also fulfilled the objects of our present day travelling libraries to some extent.

During the Mohammedan Period there was a big *Madrasa* on the bank of Ganges in the heart of the city of Azimabad (Patna City) where, it is said, was a huge collection of Persian and Arabic Books. The remains of the Madrasa and a magnificent mosque are still in existence. There were also small libraries attached to different madrasas and *Khankahs* (mohamedan monastery). Besides them there were private collections of books of the poets and nobilities.

LIBRARIES OF THE DISTRICT.

With the advent of the English occupation a library was attached to every school and college. Of all the college libraries in the province the most equipped is the Patna College Library. Later on a few library enthusiasts and the Public in general established some libraries here and there in the province.

The most renowned library of the district is the Oriental Public Library of Patna which was founded in 1890 by the late Khan Bahadur Khuda Bakhsh Khan, C. I. E., It contains some of the most rare and invaluable manuscripts in Persian and Urdu languages. It also contains some Sanskrit manuscripts. The service rendered by its founder in its formation and its value to research scholars are very great indeed.

Even before the establishment of this library the late lamented Rai Sahib Narayan Prasad founded the Bihar Hitaishi Library in Patna City in the year 1883. It is perhaps the oldest public library in the province. This library was organised with the idea of making library useful to the whole province without any distinction of cast, creed or religion as will appear from its

very name "Bihar Hitaishi"- (the benefactor of the province of Bihar). From the very beginning its object was not only to be a store-house of books but to be an institution which can "Stimulate intellectual and moral culture among the people by affording facilities for the study of healthy literature in different branches and to promote social intercourse among the people by providing a common meeting place for the inter-change of thoughts and ideas". From the very outset it was a circulating library. Books, newspapers and periodicals have been circulated among its members and also the public in general are being afforded free access to its Reading Room and News Room from its very birth. Since his death in 1919 the Library has undergone a lot of changes in accordance with the progress of library movement in India and abroad. It has organised sectional activities. There are six sections besides the Reading Room, Library proper and News Room. These are :—

1. Development section.
2. Debate section.
3. Children section.
4. Ladies section.
5. Music section.
6. Health and Recreation section.

The development section includes Travelling library service as rural library service, visual instruction, adult education and library publicity and propaganda.

There are other important libraries in Patna, namely, Srimati Radhika Sinha Institute, Rupkala Bhawan library and the Bihar Youngmen Institute. They are richer in their resources but have not yet taken up the new functions and services which are expected of a modern library. Among the young libraries in our city, the Maheshwar Library has a promising future before it.

There is another big library at Gaya, the Mannulal, Public Library which is doing very useful work and the founder is to be thanked for the zeal and interest he has

been taking and the sacrifice that he has made to serve the people in this magnificent way.

There are other libraries here and there in almost every town which have been organised by the people and depend on public support. This is a good sign of the increasing attention which the library movement is receiving unless an attempt is made to organise the scattered libraries under a unifying centre nothing much can be achieved and this can be made possible only by the inauguration of a Provincial Library Association. And to this end the secretaries and the Librarians of the different libraries should direct their attention so that we may be able to fight the illiteracy in our province. Libraries have also sprung up even in villages but at present they are very few in number and poor in resources.

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE

Though there exists nothing like rural library service in our province at present, yet it seems that the seed of such a service has been sown by some of the public libraries and by the District Inspector of schools Mr. Gopi Nath Verma who has organised a system of rural library service in the rural areas which is very laudable and he is the pioneer among government officers in our province who has devised such a scheme. There are 12 sub-Inspectors under him and he supplies each sub-Inspector with a box of hundred books on different subjects from the funds of the District Board. Books of each box are to be circulated within the jurisdiction of each sub-Inspector for a limited period of time and when once the books have gone round in circulation in their jurisdiction, the boxes are to be interchanged between the sub-Inspectors for as many times as will make all the 12 boxes of books circulated through out the district. They are then supplied with a fresher stock and so on.

Similar attempts are being made by the Bihar Hit-aishi library and another public library of Bihar Shareef (a town in Patna District) for circulating books in the neighbouring villages. They have applied to the District board for financial support.

So far as our knowledge goes, nothing else has been done in an organised manner in our province to develop rural library service. There may be stray efforts of individuals in certain villages for a rural library of which no information is available at present.

Literature, Learning and Libraries in Ancient India

BY

Dr. M. O. Thomas, F.L.A. Librarian Andhra University.

PRE-INSCRIPTIONAL PERIOD.

Literature and learning are of very great antiquity in India; but library cannot claim a similar antiquity. Several centuries had elapsed between the composition of our earliest literature, namely the Vedic hymns and the compilation of those hymns in any tangible form. We should surmise that when the Vedic seers composed their hymns, they never had even the faintest idea that they could be reduced to writing or be handled in the form of manuscripts or books. The father or the teacher repeated the hymns a sufficient number of times to his sons or pupils and made them do the same till they were well fixed in their memory. Thus were literature and learning imparted from one generation to another. The process continued even when our literature increased and included within

*Substance of a paper read at the Second All-India Conference held at Lucknow in April 1935.

its scope not only hymns but also lengthy epics, laws, and religious, moral and philosophical treatises.

THE INSCRIPTIONAL PERIOD

The inscriptional period dates from the time writing began to be prevalent in India. No one knows exactly when the art of writing was first introduced into this country. But it is almost certain that it could not have been much later than the 9th or the 8th century.

The original purpose of the introduction of writing into this country seems to have been purely practical. The Vanias of the West Coast who had been carrying on a prosperous trade with the Phoenician and Arab merchants borrowed alphabets from them for keeping their commercial accounts. That knowledge eventually passed into the courts. Kings made use of it for private and official correspondence as well as for making royal proclamations. Much time elapsed before the art was adopted by scholars and *Pandits* (priests) for literary purposes. Even when they did adopt it, its use was limited for the simple reason that the early materials for writings as well as the method of writing were unsuitable for making lengthy inscription. It was rather easy for a great emperor like Asoka to get his short edicts inscribed on rocks or send his messages on stone tablets. But it would have been too much even for Asoka to reduce all the existing literature into inscriptional form. The second period of our literary history also, therefore, is one in which we have very few manuscripts or books. Literature was mainly in oral form, and instruction too purely oral.

PALM LEAF AND ASOKA PERIOD

The third period may be termed the period of palm leaf manuscripts. In all probability, Asoka himself made use of it to certain extent. It is rather difficult to imagine that all

the extensive correspondance of Emperor Asoka with his friend King Devanampiya Tissa of Ceylon, as well as, his own princes and officials in various parts of the country could have been carried on such uncouth materials as rocks or stone tablets.

THE 'LIVING' MANUSCRIPTS

Now, how did the prevalence of the art of writing affect our literature and learning? There have been, no doubt, early attempts to reduce the existing literature into written form. The earliest of such attempts must have been made at least by the late centuries B. C. In all probability, many of the Vedas, the Upanishadas, the Epics etc., were in manuscripts form before the beginning of the Christian era, although there could not have been a super-abundance of such manuscripts. The bulk of the early Buddhist literature must also have been in written form before the fifth century A. D. The fact that Chinese travellers like Fa-Hien and Tsing who were in this country between the 4th and the 7th century A. D. found enough manuscripts and books to carry home with them is sufficient evidence that literature in written form was fairly abundant in India at that time. Moreover, many of the universities and other centres of learning which flourished between the 5th century B. C., and the 11th century A. D., seem to have possessed a fairly good collection of written materials. How large these collections were, we cannot be quite sure. However even when literature was reduced to writing, scholars considered it their duty to memorise all literature and also to instil it in the memory of their pupils by verbal repetition. By way of digression, we may remark that when we consider the lack of reading habit of literate Indians at the present day as compared to the well-formed reading habit of the people of western countries as well as of Japan, we wonder whether we have not after all inherited the literary vices of our forefathers without acquiring any of

their literary virtues. The process of written manuscripts replacing the living manuscripts however, was a gradual one and at no period of the literary history of India not even the present day, has the latter been entirely displaced by the former.

EFFECT OF LITERATURE ON PRODUCING LIBRARIES.

A question which is of great interest and importance in this connection is whether such abundance of literature and learning in the country had the effect of producing great libraries. There are no doubt many who assert that organized libraries were a special feature of the country even from the very early times. Some of them go to the extent of saying that the University of Taxila which flourished in the age of Gautama Buddha and his contemporaries possessed an important library. There is no doubt about the possibility of the existence of library at such an early date if that assumption of the antiquity of writing beyond the 10th century B. C. could be proved. But we have already seen that there is hardly any solid proof for the existence of the art of writing in India beyond the 8th or the 9th century B. C. If that is so, writing could not have been an art old enough to produce big library in the 6th and 5th century B. C. Again, we have seen that even the art of writing became widely prevalent and more facile materials being used, our scholars were more anxious to preserve their knowledge in the memory of human beings than on writing materials. Such an attitude on the part of scholars was not at all conducive to a multiplication of manuscripts or building up of libraries. Furthermore, we do not generally find our kings and emperors of the pre-Muslim period taking an active interest in collecting manuscripts and books for building up libraries. Lastly, with the passage of time, learning ceased to be democratic. It gradually became the monopoly of one class of people. The sacred works passed from the hands

of their original owners into the custody of professional priests who took zealous care that none except themselves had any knowledge of them. Manuscripts there were, of course, but those that got into the custody of professional priests hardly saw the light of the day.

LIBRARIES OF ASSYRIA AND AKUNDRIA

Under such conditions as these, it was hardly possible for the country to have had flourishing libraries. The only libraries we had before the Muslim period were those connected with the ancient universities and our surmise that they were not of any considerable size cannot be far from truth. There is no evidence whatever that in ancient India there were libraries to compare with those of King Assur-bani-pal of Assyria or the Ptolemies of Alexandria. We had indeed a splendid literature, but no splendour lies in the direction of libraries. The theory of our patriotic scholars regarding the existence of many great libraries in pre-Muslim India is, therefore, more patriotic than true.

THE MUSLIM PERIOD

Now, when we enter the Muslim period, we have altogether a different story to tell. Literature and learning assumed an entirely different aspect; so did libraries. Learning became more democratic and libraries acquired a first-rate importance. Islam was democratic in her ideals of knowledge, and even slaves had chance of receiving education.

Moslem invasion started by the latter half of the 10th century, but it did not become really aggressive till the first quarters of the 11th century. The early invaders were, no doubt, ruthless iconoclasts. But once they got settled down, they began a constructive programme, the encouragement of literature and learning and the development of libraries assumed an important place. Besides the usual court patronage of scholarship their

contribution lies in two directions, first, in the encouragement of popular education and secondly in the establishment of libraries. We shall consider their popular education first.

Any system of education which gives opportunities for acquiring culture to all classes of people including even the lowest can certainly be called popular education. In that sense the Moslems had the best popular educational system. Their educational institutions were of two kinds, first *maktab*s attached mostly to mosques or primary educational institutions and secondly, *madrasahs* or colleges in which higher education was imparted. Practically every one of them made large endowments for the establishment and maintenance of both *maktab*s and *madrasahs*.

Such encouragement and support of popular education is evidence not only of the desire of Moslem rulers and their officials for the cultural advancement of their people, but also of their own culture and literary tastes.

Coming down to the Mughal emperors, we find almost that every one of them, were of even greater culture and literary tastes.

The bulk of Muslim literature was of course produced in Arabic, but some were also written in Persian, the court language.

One special activity of many Moslem monarchs was the reduplication of manuscripts. They loved beautiful books written in neat form and bound in attractive binding. For that purpose calligraphy was specially encouraged in schools and colleges and many men particularly educated slaves were employed as scribes. That led to an increase of books all over the country which fact brings us to the second aspect of the

Moslem contribution to the educational and cultural development of India, namely, libraries.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ANCIENT LIBRARIES.

The Muslim period may certainly be called the golden age of our ancient libraries. The early Moslem invaders were, no doubt, hard on idols and temples. But we do not hear of their destroying libraries which proves that either there were no libraries in the country to be destroyed or that they were considerate to libraries. Both alternatives are equally possible. It has already been mentioned that libraries were by no means plentiful in the pre-Muslim period. The few there had been were either attached to educational institutions or were in the possession of private individuals.

Now, with the establishment of Moslem power in India, there was for the first time a rapid and extra-ordinary development of big and small libraries in the country as well as the erection of many beautiful library buildings. Such a development may be attributed to four causes. First, the attitude of Moslem rulers towards cultural and educational matters. Secondly, the general attitude of Islam towards cultural matters was quite favourable to the development of libraries. It is only when learning becomes exclusive and esoteric that books are out of reach of ordinary people. Islam on the other hand considered learning to be the birth-right of every man, even that of a slave. Thirdly, the introduction of paper contributed not a little to the increase of books and consequently to the growth of libraries. Lastly, the change in the educational system helped a great deal to the increase of books and libraries. Instruction was now not merely oral as in the pre-Muslim days; reading and writing were important items in educational curriculum. Hence schools and colleges could not give instruction without books and libraries.

For these reasons, libraries were prominent institutions during the Moslem period.

Although very few of those libraries and collections of books have survived the ravages of later invaders, there is ample evidence of the achievement of the Moslems in this direction.

BIDAR COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Many of the bigger colleges seem to have possessed a good collection of books. For instance, the college at Bidar which Mahmud Gawan, minister of Muhammad Shah built possessed a library of 3,000 volumes, a collection which may be considered enormous for days before printing was introduced into this country.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

It is true that all the colleges of the Muslim period could not boast of such collections; yet it is certain that most of them possessed libraries of at least a few hundreds of volumes. Besides there were many public libraries in important cities and towns. Among these, the Imperial library at Delhi on which most of the Moslem rulers lavished a great deal of care and money was no doubt the most important. It was the pride of the Moslem world. Besides the Imperial Library, several of the monarchs and members of the royal house-hold seem to have had private libraries of their own. Gul-Badan Begam, daughter of Babar is reported to have had her own library. Humayun, we are told, met his death by falling from the balcony of his library. Akbar was very active and zealous in building up libraries and had books brought and read to him every day from his own library. Aurangzeb added a great number of Muhammadan theological works to many libraries particularly the Imperial library.

INVASION OF NADIR SHAH AND AFTER.

But alas! for the great Imperial Library as well as for the other important libraries, the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 saw the last of them in the country. Among the booties he carried away to Persia, the treasures of our libraries were not the least important.

With this removal of books and libraries from the land, the glorious period of our ancient literature and learning may be said to have come to an end. The times that followed were certainly troublous and no literature, learning or libraries could possibly have flourished in the country. There was no central power and no paramount sovereign. Warring kings and cheftains were more bent upon conquering one another than in patronizing scholars or encouraging literature and learning.

Altogether it was the darkest period of our literary history. In the words of Sir Rabindranath Tagore, "At the moment when the West came to our door, the whole of Asia was asleep. The darkness of night had fallen on her life. Her lights were dim, her voice mute. She had stored up in her vaults her treasure, no longer growing. She had her wisdom shut in her books. She was not producing living thoughts or fresh forms of beauty. She was not moving forward but endlessly revolving round her past. She was not ready to receive the West in all her majesty of soul." But she did receive the West; she received her not only as her ruler, but also as her teacher. The domination of Western learning and literature was, therefore, inevitable. That, of course, is modern history.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE FOUNDER'S DAY.

On the occasion of the 37th death anniversary of Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia on the 9th September 1935, the following note which was sent by the Librarian on behalf of the Library, appeared in the Tribune dated September 9, 1935 :—

Sardar Dyal Singh Public Library is the embodiment of one of the three great Master thoughts of the fascinating personality whose name it proudly bears : The Press, The College and the Library ; these were the material shapes in which he found the finest fruits of the rich English tradition of liberalism and rationalism which were the glory of the England of his time, and which lay nearest to his heart beneath the outward and prosaic life of a typical nobleman.

By one of the clauses of the will the Sardar created a Trust for the maintenance of a *Public Library as near the city of Lahore as possible*. The earnest note of a desire to do something to saturate the coming generations with a wholesome education that lies at the source of words italicised is explicitly brought out in the final clause of the will...“it is my earnest wish and desire that no attempts shall be spared to fully carry out and to give effect to the several objects, here in above set forth and described in this my last will and testament.”

Here we are concerned only with the Library. The history of the Library is not only the record of external vicissitudes through which a certain institution has passed, but due to the judicious and far sighted policy and guidance of its Trustees, it happens to be a commentary on what has been called above as “one of three great

"Majestic Thoughts" of the Sardar. It is the gradual realization of the potentialities of an idea—the idea of diffusing education in men to make of them better citizens.

By his Will, the Sardar bequeathed to the Library Trust the building now known as "Exchange Mansions" (or Sir Ganga Ram Trust buildings) on the Mall, and Rs. 60,000 in cash out of which Rs. 10,000 went in the litigation that followed the death of the Sardar. The Library was first started on the modest basis of a Reading room housed in a portion of the "Exchange" and furnished with some Papers and Magazines.

In 1920, the Exchange was sold off for Rs. 4,15,000 and the Reading Room was moved to some rooms in the Bharat Buildings rented for the purpose. Since then annual allotments have been made for the purchase of books. This meant expansion of the Library, and hence the need was felt for a decent Library Building. The present site of the Library on Nisbet Road was then purchased "as near the city of Lahore as possible" in accordance with the Will of the Sardar. The magnificent building that now stands on the site was constructed in 1928 at a cost of about 2 lakhs, and the Library moved in the present premises.

The policy of the Trust Committee of allotting a large amount of money annually for building up the book-stock of the library was in time bound to attract to the Library larger and larger numbers of the Public desiring to make use of it. The new building gave an impetus to this process. Since then the Library has expanded continuously and at present it ranks among the premier Libraries of India. A further step in the direction of extending the Library service was taken when in May 1934 the Trust Committee decided to run the Library for

12 hours, a step which very few libraries in India have taken so far. This increased the financial burdens on the Library but the extension of the service has been deeply appreciated by the Public, the sovereign criterion that it is a step in the right direction, contributing its share towards the fulfilment of the "last Will and Testament" of the Founder.

The late Mr. Balak Ram, I. C. S. and R. B. Sundar Das Suri have bequeathed their books to the Library. This together with the policy pursued by the Trust Committee, makes the Library specially rich in Social Sciences. Again the Library is the only one in the Province which takes special thought of the needs of the Medical profession. In addition the Library service subscribes for a specially large amount of periodical literature for the benefit of the Public.

With a view to attract to the Library the educated women of Lahore, a large room has been set apart for their exclusive use, and here are also placed the periodicals which are of special interest to women. A ladies Advisory Committee is constituted annually to advise the Trust Committee on matter concerning the relation of women to the Library service.

One of the big halls in the upper storey has been fitted with lecture room furniture only last year and now serves as a Lecture Hall. It is lent for use for lectures or meetings for educational purposes and it has become very popular even in this short time.

In view of the rapidly increasing popularity and the demand for increased accommodation of the Library, the Reference Room and Lending Department and the Newspaper and Periodicals Room are to be fitted with up-to-date library furniture in the near future. Administrative changes are gradually being introduced

to facilitate the smooth working of the Library machinery so as to render it more efficient in giving the service for which it exists. In this way has one aspect of the "last will and testament" of the great Sardar borne its noble fruit. The past gives ground for greater hopes in the future, for the idea at the source of the Dyal Singh Library is only the idea of disseminating education and building up a better man—the idea which is the eternal mainspring of all noble efforts.

* * * *

COCHIN COMMITTEE'S DECISION. The Advisory Committee of the Cochin Legislative Council, at meeting presided over by Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, the Dewan, has decided to start village libraries and encourage private ones.

* * * *

NEW PROPOSAL FOR AGRA LIBRARY. The question of transferring John's Public Library now situated in Hewett Park to the Agra University building is engaging the attention of Agra Municipal Board.

The Library was founded by the late Sir Edwin John and his brothers in 1923 and was handed over to the management of the Agra Municipal Board as a gift to the general public of Agra. The University, seeing that the library was in need of funds, has put forward a proposal for transferring it to the University on condition that the Board continues to contribute the annual grant for its upkeep.

* * * *

M. K. GANDHI LIBRARY, DURBAN. There was celebrated recently in Durban the 14th anniversary of the opening of the M. K. Gandhi Library, which was established by the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust and founded by the late Mr. Barsee Rustomjee in memory of his wife.

Equipped and maintained through income derived from the investments of the Trust, the Library is not dependent in any way upon financial support from the Indian community, all classes of which enjoy its privileges free. Europeans and Natives are also welcome to use it. The Parsee Rustomjee Hall, in which the Library is housed, is also frequently used for lectures and public meetings, no charge being made for its use.

The popularity of the institution may be gauged from the fact that the attendance increased from 32,268 in 1924 to 78,020 in 1935. Other interesting facts revealed in the report submitted by the Secretary are that there are about 7,000 books in the Library, including, besides English, volumes in Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil and Telugu. During the year under review several distinguished persons of various nationalities visited the Library.

At a recent meeting Mr. Kajee, himself a member of the Committee, caused some excitement when he roundly condemned the committee, the secretary, the chairman and the Trust for the manner in which the Library was being run and called upon all of them to resign and make room for younger men. There are many who think that Mr. Kajee spoke rather irresponsibly, for after all much time and labour had been spent by those who had volunteered their services in conducting the Library, the secretary, for instance, having rendered free service for the past 12 years. It is understood that, in view of the criticisms that have been offered, the position is to be reviewed. The discussions have also raised the question of the circulating library for Indians and it has been pointed out in this connexion that as Indians are not allowed the use of the existing Municipal Library, it is for the City Council to consider whether the Indian community should not also be shown some consideration in the matter of circulating libraries.

Annual Report of the Library Department

BARODA (1933-34)

The Department is divided into two divisions, i. e. the Central Library (comprising the Lending, Reference and Mahila Libraries, the Children's Library and Playroom, the Newspaper Reading Room, the Bindery and the Central office) and the Country Branch. This latter contains the Town and Village Section and the Travelling Library Section.

CENTRAL LIBRARY—IN THE NEWSPAPER READING ROOM which remained open for all the 365 days of the year, 378 periodicals were taken in, including 87 received as gifts.

STOCK — 108,122 volumes were in stock at the beginning of the year, 4,804 were purchased and 249 received as gifts. 669 were discarded. Thus at the close of the year, the Library had in stock 112,506 volumes.

CIRCULATION — The circulation during the year was as follows :—

English 30,007, Gujarati 47,450, Marathi 34,891, Hindi 3,963, Urdu, Bengali and others 713, Total volumes 1,17,024. This works out at 427.09 volumes per day for 274 working days of the year.

READERS — The number of registered readers was 4594 as against 4560 of the previous year.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND PLAYROOM — 33,239 children visited the Children Room during the year as against 30,332 during the previous year. The number of working days of this section being 263 the average attendance of children per day comes to 126.3. The circulation of books in this section (included in the general report) was

7,539 against 6,459 books of the previous year. The number of readers in this section was 289.

BINDERY — The bindery staff consists of a head binder, an assistant and a boy. During the year they did the following work :—

2,268 books were bound, 2,205 books were repaired in the Lending section, 865 books were repaired in the Mahila Library, 295 parcels were packed, 244 photos, diagrams and maps were mounted, 32 game boxes were repaired, 33 portfolios were made, 122 Office registers were bound either in paper, leather, Morocco leather or half-cloth.

NEWSPAPER CUTTING — The practice of selecting and dispatching to the Huzur Newspaper, cuttings every week was continued during the year. Since March 1934, the Central Library has been sending to the Huzur as well as to the Dharmadhikari a monthly statement of articles on religious and social subjects appearing in several periodicals received in the Library.

LIBRARY STUDENTS — During the year, the Library received the following students for training in librarianship:—

Mr. G. S. Patey deputed by the Gwalior Government, Mr. T. G. Subhedar deputed by Holkar College, Indore, Mr. Gopinathrao, a Madras graduate and Mr. K. A. Damle, a librarian of Kala-Bhavan, Baroda.

COUNTRY SECTIONS.

MOFUSSIL LIBRARIES — Libraries receiving aid are grouped under three heads: District, Town and Village Libraries. These can receive maximum annual grants of Rs. 700, Rs. 300 and Rs. 100 respectively from Government, Prant Panchayats and Municipalities or Village Panchayats on the condition that they raise a similar amount themselves locally. Libraries exclusively meant for ladies or children receive maximum annual grant of Rs. 100 on the above conditions.

NUMBER OF STATE-AIDED LIBRARIES — During the past 5 years was as follows :—

Year,	District Libraries including Jai- singrao Library Baroda.	Town Libraries.	Village Libraries.	Mahila Libraries.	Child- ren's Libraries.	Newspaper Read- ing Rooms.
1933-34	8+1	42	968	9	5	127
1932-33	4	41	918	9	5	158
1931-32	4	41	818	8	5	180
1930-31	4	41	718	8	2	216
1929-30	4	41	697	1	...	196

The Government directed the Department in 1931-32 to endeavour to open 100 new libraries every year until each and every village possessing a primary school had a library of its own. In pursuance of this order 200 libraries were opened during the last two years, but this order was modified and only 50 libraries were allowed to be opened during the year under report.

MR. AMIN'S TOURS :— Throughout the year Mr. Amin remained incharge of the Country work. He has not only to supervise the work of 1,178 libraries and Reading Rooms, to deliver lectures on library work to teachers of the Vernacular Schools, to train Deputy Educational Inspectors and approve proposed sites for new buildings for libraries, but also to inspect as many libraries as possible.

LIBRARY INSPECTION WORK — The Deputy Educational Inspectors are ordered to inspect the aided libraries, but their work is necessarily perfunctory and superficial as they are seldom in a position to offer practical advice and information to the local librarians.

MAHILA LIBRARIES — Buildings for Mahila (Ladies) Libraries have already been erected in Amreli, Navsari and Pattan. These three library buildings from valuable centres for all women's activities as they provide ladies not only with books, papers and games but also work as continuation classes for advanced studies both

for primary and secondary education and teach them home industries such as sewing and embroidery. This augurs well for the future well-being of women. The example of these places has given great impetus to the library work for ladies in other places. Consequently during the year under report arrangements have been made to erect buildings for ladies' libraries at Dwarka, Vaso and Bhadran.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS OF THE YEAR — For the first time in the history of the library movement, the 6th Conference of the Baroda State Libraries was held at Baroda. It was attended by 415 delegates from different parts of the State and by about 1000 visitors. The inaugural ceremony was performed by H. E. the Dewan Saheb Sir V. T. Krishnama Chari who in his opening address eulogised the services of the Libraries Co-operative Society and the Baroda State Library Association, in bringing out two big volumes of the Classified Catalogue of 12,000 Gujarati books. The President appreciated in very high terms the basic principle of co-operation, self-reliance and social service which guided the policy of the Library Department and urged the other ruling Princes to follow the noble example set by H. H. the Maharaja Saheb in working for the good of their subjects.

EXPENDITURE OF THE STATE-AIDED LIBRARIES.—The expenditure of the State-aided libraries and Reading Rooms during the year was as follows :—

Government grant, Rs. 48,000, Prant Panchayat grants Rs. 41,624-12-7, Grant from Municipalities Rs. 8,516, People's contribution Rs. 55,387-13-10. Total Rs. 153,538-10-5

TRAVELLING LIBRARY SECTION—had 21,472 books in stock on August 1, 1933. It purchased 789 books at a

cost of Rs. 899-5-6 and received 41 by way of gift.

The circulation of books during the past five years was as follows :—

Year.	Stock.	Boxes Circulated.	Books Circulated.	Readers.
1933-34	22,108	564	30,114	10,728
1932-33	21,472	698	29,425	10,893
1931-32	20,905	405	22,067	9,526
1930-31	20,228	366	15,262	7,001
1929-30	18,663	435	15,706	5,591

2646 stereographs were circulated through 45 centres in 50 boxes against 3,863 stereographs through 57 centres in 95 boxes in the previous year. The cost of working this section irrespective of salaries, was (books Rs. 899-8-0, deadstock Rs. 49-2-0, transportation charges Rs. 549-8-0) Rs. 1,497-15-6 in all.

OBITUARY

It is with profound regret that the Punjab Library Association and the Editorial staff of the Modern Librarian have learnt of the death of Mr. Newton M. Dutt who was a pioneer of Library Movement in India and retired only last June after twenty years of unique service in Baroda Library Department.

DEATH OF Mr. MINTO.

Librarians in India will hear with regret the passing of John Minto. He was an Aberdeenshire man, and served in libraries in Aberdeen, later being chief successively at Perth and Brighton, becoming eventually librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh, from which he retired a few month's ago. Mr. Minto's writings are well-known to librarians and bibliographers everywhere.

BOOK REVIEWS

Rolland, Romain. *Michelangelo Albert and Charles Boni.* New York City n. d. 183 pp. inclusive of Chronological Table Catalogue of Principal Works, Bibliography and Index.

This is a reprint at a popular price of a translation of a life of Michelangelo published in France in the series called *Les Maitres de l' Art*. The translation from the original French is by Frederick Street and is accurate but colourless.

The biography, moreover, is somewhat disappointing. Michelangelo is one of the greatest and the most fascinating figures of romantic Renaissance Italy, but Romain Rolland somehow fails to put into his life of the great artist any of the vitality and magnificence that characterised either the man himself or his age. The book—in translation at any rate,—is strangely lacking in real literary grace when we consider that its author wrote *Jean Christopher*, but it must be borne in mind that Romain Rolland's standard tends to vary markedly from book to book.

This volume can be described as a fairly adequate but comparatively dull piece of biography, as to length certainly briefer than the subject demands. The bibliography on pages 181-183 should, however, prove of very, real value to all who like myself would fain learn more about Michelangelo.

—F. Mowbray Velte.

Eccles, Mark *Christopher Marlowe in London* Cambridge : Mass Harvard University Press, 1934, 185 pp including index.

Mark Eccles must be added to the list of those who in the last ten years have made a very valuable contribution

to our knowledge of one of the most fascinating figures amongst the Elizabethan dramatists. A follower and admirer of Laslie Hotson, whose work on Marlowe has been of the highest importance, Mark Eccles has obtained his information by similar alert and painstaking research and his discoveries possess like significance in the light they throw on the life and character of the poet and on his times.

One must confess, however, that, while the work of Eccles is no less important, Hotson's presentation of his subject is more colourful and vivid, and therefore more thrilling to the average reader. Despite this fact the book has life and interest and is strongly recommended to all to whom Marlowe is a challenging personality. It is besides an excellent example of the way in which literary detectives solve their problems and an object lesson in skilful and scientific research.

—F. Mowbray Velte.

Douglas, Lloyd C. *Green Light*. Houghton, Mifflin Co., New York, Dollars 2.50 \$26pp.

Lloyd C. Douglas, we are told on the dust-cover to this volume, "tardily and by sheer accident" entered "the field of fiction, after a quarter century of sermons, essays, and books of serious discussion," and as a result of his success therein has now "given up the pulpit to take care of his wider 'parish,' and hopes hereafter to cleave to this method of interpreting the Sermon on the Mount for the restless thousands to whom religious institutions have not appealed."

His first venture in this field was the well-remembered and much discussed *Magnificent Obsession* which proved in every way a best-seller and paved the way for the success of *Precious Jeopardy* and *Forgive us our Trespasses* its immediate successors. *Green Light* is the latest of the line and should be as popular as its predecessors.

For despite—or perhaps because of its obtrusive and somewhat saccharine pulpit-manner, this book is attractive in its own way. It is nice and clean and healthy at a time when books can once more afford to be nice and clean and healthy. It is sentimental and the ordinary everyday man or woman is incurably sentimental despite the sneers of the intelligentsia. And if, my reader, these things appeal to you, do not hesitate to take this book to your heart. The characters are all fundamentally fine and noble-hearted. There is, for example, young, handsome, brilliant Dr. Newell Paige, who takes on himself the blame for the serious mistake of his superior whom he whole-heartedly admires. There is Phyllis Dexter, blond, beautiful and an illustration of the old adage, *Amore Vincit Omnia*. There is Sonia Duquesne redeemed by Dean Harcourt and devoted to him. And of course the Dean himself, the *deus ex machina*, who can read everybody's soul and at the same time does most of the preaching. Every character in a sense talks the author's own rather grandiloquent language but the Dean is his particular mouthpiece. There is little sharp delineation or definition or real individuality in such creations as Newell Paige or Phyllis or Sonia; they are all much of a muchness, exuding sweetness, and light in a manner that might have delighted Matthew Arnold; but the Dean has got personality.

As for the Dean's oft-repeated message of "The Grand Parade" of progress, it is a cross between *Coue and Pollyanna*, and suggests Henry Van Dyke when he is most patriotic. Every day in every way the world is getting better and better; we should all be glad, glad, glad all the time; especially in America "where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars." Obviously Lloyd C. Douglas has little sympathy with radicals and radicalism or with critics of our culture and civilization of to-day.

It is easy to inveigh against Capitalism, but has not Capitalism put up the hospitals, libraries, etc. that are the glory of our civilization. We have made steady progress in the past, we are making steady progress, even now, and we shall continue to go onward from better to better. There is no place in this world for the "grouse" who would fain turn all things inside out because he believes all things are wrong. There is much to be said for this philosophy, but one might wish it did not sound quite so smug. Possibly the writer of this critical note deserves to be numbered amongst the nasty "grouses" himself.

—F. Mowbray Velte.

Dandpota N. M. *The influence of Arabic poetry on the Development of Persian poetry. Islamia College, Gogeshwari, Bombay Price Rs. 6.*

Dr. Dandpota is young scholar with mature judgement and his work bears the impress of his scholarship and is marked by a thorough grasp of the subject. The question of the origin and the development of Persian poetry has been the subject of controversy—bitter and heated at times in recent years.

Our author is of the opinion that "there could be no doubt regarding the existence of poetry in Persia before the Arab invasion" but that it disappeared owing to various causes. He supports his views with a number of arguments and statements culled from Arabic and Persian writers of the early centuries of Islam.

The author then traces the evolution of Arabic poetry and the influence it has exercised on the Post Islamic poetry of Iran. Its influence appears to have been immense as, according to the author, not only did the Iranian poets adopt the Arabic prosody with certain modifications but also particularly those who flourished in the early days of the renaissance of Persian poetry borrowed to a

certain extent the ideas of the Arab poets their modes of expression, their figures of speech, rhetoric similes, metaphors, and almost the entire equipment which goes to make the stock-in-trade of a Persian votary of the Muse.

Dr. Dandpotā has devoted the last chapter of his valuable work to a discussion of the reaction of the Iranian environment and circumstances on the poetry of the Arabs, much of course, to the lowering of the standard of that poetry.

The author's treatment of his subject is both thorough and conscientious, his narration is enriched by a wealth of detail and illustrations which make his work a valuable addition to the existing literature for the critical study of the Persian poetry and its study will well repay the advanced student of Persian literature.

JOHN NEWBERY MEDAL AWARD.

The *Bulletin* of the A. L. A. for July 1935 reports that John Newbery Medal Award (for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature written by a resident of the U. S. and published during the preceding year) has been awarded this year to Miss Monica Shannon for *Dobry*. *Dobry* tells the story of a Bulgarian peasant lad. From the moment, we are told, the reader sees the "golden-leaved poplar, tree in the courtyard of Dobry's peasant home completely hushed with snow", he lives in the strangeness of a foreign land. Here is gaiety, poetry and colour in profusion such as is seldom found in a book for children and one shares with Dobry the pains from eating too many tomatoes, crispy, juicy and cold from the snow, his longing to become an artist and the glory of his achievements.

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BOOKS in BRIEF

(By the Managing Editor)

Saunders, Kenneth. *Ideals of East and West.* C. U. P. 10/6.

Undertaken at the suggestion of H. H. the Maharaja Gaekwad, the author of 'A Pageant of Asia' here gives an account of the content of the great systems of ethics of India, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Greeks, the Hebrews and Christians. For those who want to study the thoughts of the great and Creative teachers of ethics it will form an extremely instructive reading. Students who are familiar with the author's earlier work know with what skill he arranges his material. He writes with warm sympathy and understanding, and those who follow him share his companionship as well as his scholarship.

Saurat, Denis. *History of Religions.* London, Cape.

Beginning with the beliefs of the savages, the religions of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, India and the Far East are described, besides Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Prof. Saurat's thesis is that the evolution of religious ideas within organized religious systems ceased some five centuries back and afterwards history of religions (as does his book) becomes a history of religious ideas in philosophy. This is a book of first rate interest even for those who are not directly interested in the study of various religions.

Macnicol, Nicol. *The Living Religions of the Indian People.* London, Student Christian Movement Press. 10/6.

The author who spent number of years in India is a foremost authority on Indian religion. The book contains, in an enlarged form, the lectures delivered in 1932-34 in connection with the Wilde Lectureship in Natural and Comparative Religion at the University of Oxford. The

forms the various religions have taken "under the stress of the demands and aspirations of living people" are described and the book as such, should prove useful to the general readers and scholars alike.

Johnson, A. C. (Editor). *Growing opinions, a symposium of British Youth Outlook.* London, Methuen 5/-.

It contains essays written by British citizens between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five dealing with almost every branch of life, political, social and intellectual within the State. The object is to ascertain the youth opinion on the various subjects. Some of the titles are The Family, Youth and Pleasures, Modern art and tradition, Education in the waste land, and Approach to Psychology.

Macmurray, John. *The Philosophy of communism.* London, Faber and Faber. 3/6.

Written by one of the most original thinkers, it is an exposition of the fundamental principles and implications of the marxian theory, its development from the logic of Hegel, its much discussed validity for human society and its practical bearings upon contemporary conditions are examined. "Fascism" it is further pointed out, "is the essential antithesis of Bolshevism and that both are inevitable stages in the progress of society towards the final synthesis of the classless society." The book is written for readers embarking upon the study of the subject.

Dalton, Hugo. *Practical Socialism for Britain,* London, Routledge.

Any one who wants to understand the essential principles of Labour party and their future programme cannot do better than to read the chapters on Democracy, socialism, finance, planning, equality and peace, of which this volume is composed, written by a prominent member of the National Executive of the Labour Party.

Williams, F. E. *Soviet Russia fights neurosis.* London, Routledge, 7/6.

The author who is a physician and psychiatrist had the full opportunity of seeing things for himself and writes here on problems of Russian adolescents, education of youth, their religious education, their ruling passions and fears, and principles on which contemporary life is based. The book should go a long way to clear the misunderstandings in the mind of the public touching almost on every phase of life in Russia. We thoroughly enjoyed the book and heartily commend it to the notice of the public.

Stalin, Molotov, Kaganovich & others. *Socialism Victorious.* London, Lawrence, 5.

The first and second parts of this volume contain the reports and speeches of Stalin, Kaganovich and others delivered at 17th Congress of the C. P. S. V. giving an analysis of the internal and international situation, of their achievement and, of future programme of socialist reconstruction, as well as, a report on the completion of the reconstruction of the entire national economy by State Planning Commission. The third part contains the resolutions and decisions of the congress.

Johnston, R. F. *Confucianism and modern China.* London : Gollanez. 8/6.

The author, who is a Professor of Chinese in the University of London is well qualified for the subject chosen for his Lewis Fry Memorial Lectures delivered at Bristol University. "Modern China" may vigorously disown the influence of "Confucianism" but a close study of Confucian ethics, reveals that confucianism is still a living force among the Chinese and has a message of great value for those who are anxious to save the cultural inheritance of their country from disintegration.

Lombardo-Tassan, G. *Nursery Schools in Italy.* London Allen and Unwin. 6/-.

For all those who are interested in infant education the account of two baby schools, particularly that of the pioneer work of Signorina Rose Agazzi on the lines of *Communal Family Life* which appear here will form a fascinating study. The book also touches on Prof. Lombardo-Radice's views on the Montessori method, its origin and history.

Whistler, Hugh. *Popular handbook of Indian birds.* Second edition. London, Gurney and Jackson, 15/-.

The first edition which was published in 1928, contained 250 common Indian birds. The number of species described at length has been increased to 275 and in addition over 230 other species have been mentioned in short paragraphs which give the salient points in their description and distribution. In all therefore, more than 500 species have now been described as compared with 250 in the first edition.

In addition, the whole text has been very carefully revised in the light of advances made in Indian ornithology. It should be difficult—knowing the variety in this direction—to look for a more comprehensive survey of the subject.

Michand, Regis. *Modern thought and literature in France,* New York, Funk and Wagnalls. 8/6.

New movements in French literature since the beginning of the present century becomes a fascinating study in the hands of this leading critic, who is, as well known in America, as in his native France. Besides, it contains critical appraisals of the most representative writers in the field of Fiction, Drama and Poetry.

Benedict, Ruth. *Patterns of Culture,* London. Routledge.

Here the author who is an experienced anthropologist chooses three typical primitive peoples for study—the Zuni Indians, the natives of Dobu and Kwakiutl of Vancouver Island and contrasts their civilizations.

After describing the tribal customs in a brilliant style

for the general reader, the author sets forth the thesis that the best approach to social anthropology is by study of history and customs rather than human nature, traditions rather than biological inheritance.

Wingfield—Stratford Esmé. *The Victorian Tragedy. The Victorian Sunset. The Victorian Aftermath.* London, Routledge. 12/6 each.

The main object of this trilogy is to ascertain how far the Victorian age succeeded in adapting itself to the requirements of the machine with which they found themselves confronted without a warning.

The first book is mainly concerned with that of the middle-class supremacy and comprises roughly the four mid decades of the 19th century, the second volume completes the century and the last volume brings the story to the pre-war days. For an excellent picture of social, political and economic philosophy of the period reviewed it shall be difficult to find the equal of these volumes.

Tilak, Bal Gangadhar—*Sri Bhagavadgita—Rahasya or Karma-yog-stava* translated by B. S. Sukthankar. Vol. I Bombay, Satar Building, Rs. 6/-

The "Gita Rahasya" (exposition of the philosophy of the Gita) of Lokmanya Tilak first appeared in Marathi in 1915, and by this time has become a classic of Hindu philosophy. In its Hindu translation (already in its 7th edition) it is known to all lovers of the Gita in Northern India, on account of its vast erudition and the overwhelming power of thought characteristic of the author. This is the first time that it has seen the light of day in English garb. As such it is bound to exercise a wider appeal in India than could be possible hitherto, even with such fine English renderings as we have from the

ROUND the FOREIGN LIBRARIES.

(By S. S. SAITH)

Soviets build a Library.—The Soviets are at work on what is to be the world's largest library, the Lenin State Library at Moscow. It is designed to hold about nine million books. The reading halls are to accomodate seven thousand persons. The main stock is ten or eleven floors high, effectively lit by day light on all sides. Book delivery is by lift and conveyor. An unusual feature is the dining rooms for adults and for children on the ground level. The Lenin State Library is described as "a many-windowed functional affair, through which one enters by a lofty portico."

America Outstripped by England.—"While the United States has smugly remained content with libraries as they are" Mr. Compton (President A. L. A.) told a gathering of librarians at a luncheon "some of the foreign nations have advanced far beyond us in library system as an outstanding development of the modern era. In London, he said, a central leading library for students has been established which makes books available to the most remote parts of England. This service is complemented by successful regional and country library units.

President Compton, who participated in the Second International Congress of Libraries at Madrid, also related the part of the A. L. A. in initiating the international library committee responsible for holding this Conference and in other ways promoting international library relations.

The Library Association of Ireland—was recently honoured by the visit of an eminent librarian in honour of whom they held a little reception to mark the occasion. He was Dr. W. W. Bishop, President of the International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography, and reorganiser of the Vatican Library. He is one of the most distinguished men in the library world. He holds a doctor's degree

from five American Universities, and is the author of two books well-known to Librarians,—a work on Cataloguing, and a delightful volume of essays entitled *Backs of Books*.

Delegates with Political Motives.—Some one who keeps himself in close touch with library conferences which are held in England writes the following remarks which come as a surprise to us because this is, somehow the last thing we would like to believe of the town-councillors :—

The Library Association in other days was helped greatly by town-councillor members serving on library committees, who found much interest in the work, and who played a considerable part in the affairs of the Association....Now, however, a hanger-on type of delegate is emerging, whose bent is largely political and whose interest in attending conferences is as much with a view to getting reported to the press as to contributing any thing of value to discussions. The position promises to become ridiculous if it is not stopped, and I would suggest that the Association should watch to see that this politically minded councillor type does not exploit it. There can be no cultural atmosphere in the Association if it is allowed to become a stamping ground for small-calibred political mugwumps.

Central Library Bristol.—A few Librarians could have shown a better consideration of the service personnel than that of Mr. James Ross, the Librarian of the Central Library, Bristol.

Besides accomplishing a considerable amount of re-organising work as a result of which the Central Library is now a splendidly purposeful institution, two study rooms have recently been opened for the use of the staff, both rooms being finely appointed for the purpose, and adequately supplied with files of professional magazines and copies of text books.

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pens of Dr. Annie Besant and Edwards Arnold.

The original Marathi work consisted of fifteen expository chapters (with an appendix) and a translation of the verses of the Gita. The present volume contains much more than the thirteen chapters of philosophical exposition, and quite frankly we are unable to see the justification of the greater part of this additional material. If it does not detract from the dignity of exposition, it certainly contributes nothing to the merit of the work or its better understanding.

The Bhagwat Gita is unique and unique too is the "Rahasya" of Tilak. That is a sufficient recommendation of the Book.

John Newbery Medal Award.

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Monica Shanon who was born in Canada, is an author of *California fairy tales* published in 1926, and *Eyes for the dark* which appeared two years later. In all her work we find a sense of the presence of little people in mountains, trees and flowers. Laughter and wee folk flash from the pages of *Goose grass rhymes*, a little book of poems which show her love of nature and beauty. But it is in *Dolby* that she has reached the height of her skill.

EDITORIAL

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occasion of great joy in a befitting manner. It is further, a happy coincidence that the Diamond Jubilee of the Maharaja who is the proud father of Library Service in Baroda and as such, has nobly laid the lines on which such work must proceed in other provinces—falls at the same time as the Silver Jubilee of Library Department.

In order to celebrate the occasion, the Central Library, Baroda intends to hold an exhibition of publications in English, Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi, and Urdu. The object of the exhibition will be to show the progress of the publishers' art especially as revealed in the production of books. A detailed account of the exhibition and other items of the programme arranged, which under the guidance of Mr. Waknis, the Curator of Libraries should assume an interesting form, has been promised to us for publication by the Curator and will appear in our January issue.

Meantime we take this opportunity to extend to the Gaekwad of Baroda and the Library Department our heartiest felicitations on this happy occasion.

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Carnegie centennial celebrations.

Libraries throughout the American continent, Europe and several parts of British Empire will observe on November 25th, Anniversary of the birth of Andrew Carnegie, great library philanthropist.

"One Hundred Years of library progress" is the theme, as suggested by American Library Association, round which libraries in the United States will build a celebration program. "Open house" will be held by libraries with appropriate exhibits depicting the great increase in library facilities, with special reference to local library progress to honour the great library benefactor.

Although the building of public libraries was but one of his very numerous benefactions it is the one for

which he is generally known to the American and British Public. His gifts in this direction began in 1881 when he founded a Library in his native town of Dunfermeine, Scotland, followed in 1890 by a Library in Accegheny City, Pennsylvania, his first home in America and in 1895 by a library in Pittsburgh.

These were the first of a series of library donations which in 1917, had reached a total of \$65,000,000, had aided in the establishment of nearly 3000 libraries dotted all over the world, and it is estimated, had brought reading facilities within the reach of 35,000,000 people formerly without them.

Thus did a poor boy from Scotland, a son of a humble weaver, whose story reads like a tale from the Arabian Night coming to America in poverty succeeded in distributing in world wide charities, 350 millions of dollars accumulated during a period of forty years.

S. S. SAITH.

A Reminder to our Subscribers.

In keeping with our tradition, we are sending the First Number of our new volume to all our Subscribers irrespective of the fact whether or not we have received their subscriptions for the next year. While we are grateful for the promptness of those who have already responded to our announcement in the last issue of previous volume, we take this opportunity to request others to follow suit so that we may be able to carry on our work.

—*Managing Editor.*